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EXAMINER

WATSON, JOY L

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed April 14, 2008, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. In response to applicant's argument that Kamikawa '696 does not disclose or suggest a separation plate with an exhaust path from the drying chamber into the cleaning chamber (first paragraph page 8) because component 140 is not a drying chamber because it is not separated from the cleaning chamber. The examiner respectfully disagrees. The term "drying chamber" does not itself require separation from the cleaning chamber. However, shutter 7 provides such separation. Furthermore, chamber 140 is capable of drying the substrate, and therefore satisfies the limitation.

b. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).